

The Pioneer School

A HISTORY OF SHURTLEFF COLLEGE

By AUSTEN K. de BLOIS, Ph. D., LL. D.

*Gilt Top; 12mo; 336 Pages; Illustrated by 28 Full Page, Half-Tone Photo-
gravures. NET, \$1.50.*



BENJAMIN SHURTLEFF.

*Published
by.....* **Fleming H. Revell Company,**

CHICAGO

NEW YORK.

TORONTO.

The Pioneer School

"Shurtleff College, the oldest educational institution in the West, was founded in great faith and in great poverty; sustained for a generation by the unmeasured sacrifices of a few consecrated, cultured men; nourished for another generation by a slowly increasing body of supporters, ministering to a growing student constituency, sending out year by year young men who have since wrought largely in the world. Dr. de Blois, who was president of Shurtleff from 1894 to 1899, has rendered far more than a local or denominational service in preparing a history of the college. He has placed before the educational public of the day, busy with the pressing needs and problems of the present, a fair, unprejudiced story of educational beginnings in a typical western field. He has reminded those who might otherwise forget that there have been educated men and trained teachers in Illinois for more than a few years; that the growth of this great state from a horde of emigrants and traders to a splendid commonwealth was not wrought without the patient labors of godly men who early cast their lot in the river towns and the backwoods for the sake of God and truth. It is as "the pioneer school" that Shurtleff, with Dr. de Blois for her biographer, will appeal to many readers of this narrative. We venture to say that few who care for the records of early struggles for culture, with their humor and pathos and humble heroism, will fail to find this history absorbing, whether or not they have any personal interest in the particular institution concerned.

* * * *

"Dr. de Blois must have delved deeply into the historical records, written and printed, of the college, and more than that, he must have spent much time in research of a more difficult sort—studying the local traditions of early times, the personal characteristics of leaders now deceased, the stories of antebellum days. From the late Dr. Justus Bulkley and other survivors of Shurtleff's early years he gained many facts that help to make the history complete. When one remembers how many of these pioneers have passed away within a decade, it is most gratifying that the preparation of this indispensable chronicle was not longer delayed. * * * The collection of materials for this narrative gives evi-

PUBLISHED BY

FLEMING H. REVELL COMPANY.

dence of
author,
of love
comple
careful
printed
er teach
in every
ard.

"The
his own
Blois, p
than wh
peculiar
is also
of the h
mined
Christia
author
details;
contin
which h
Baptist

"A wo
of insta
ism, cou
and the
When a
to tell v
done to
all, and
cational
history
will fur
terials."

"This
well wo
vance C

"Pres
its delin
instituti
educatio

FLEM

The Pioneer School

dence of the industry and conscientious zeal of the author, to whom the work has been largely a labor of love. * * * Altogether, the volume forms a complete narrative of the college down to 1899; carefully compiled, impartially written, handsomely printed, and illustrated with many portraits of former teachers and students; worthy of the subject, and in every way creditable to its author."—The Standard.

"These narratives are interwoven and related in his own gentle but straight-ahead way by Dr. de Blois, president of the college from 1894 to 1899, than whom no better chronicler could be found. Of peculiar interest to the denomination, the narrative is also in itself and to outsiders an attractive record of the historic conceptions, staying power and determined progress of men worthy alike to be called Christians and pioneer Americans. * * * The author is to be congratulated on the accuracy of his details; the manner of the narration, producing a continuous interest; and the fair fame of the school which he holds dear and has served so well."—The Baptist Union.

"A work of extraordinary interest. * * * Full of instances of foresight; public spirit, lofty patriotism, courage, patience, self-denial, heroism, romance and the victorious power of high ideals. * * * When any competent historian shall take in hand to tell what the small colleges of the country have done to preserve the Union, to insure freedom for all, and to lay the foundations of the various educational institutions of this country this eloquent history of Shurtleff College, by President de Blois, will furnish him with a goodly share of his best materials."—The Chicago Tribune.

"This chapter of pioneer educational history is well worth writing, and is well written."—The Advance Chicago.

"President de Blois' narrative is photographic in its delineations. * * * A sketch of a typical institution. * * * A desirable contribution to educational literature."—The New York "Outlook."

PUBLISHED BY

FLEMING H. REVELL COMPANY.

The Pioneer School

"Of great interest. * * * Dr. de Blois has done his work well. * * * No omissions of matter pertinent to the thorough exposition of the subject. * * * Delightfully presented."—*Christian Herald*.

"There is a romance about the beginnings of Shurtleff College such as attaches to but few of our educational institutions. * * * Dr. de Blois has done a noble work in his history. He has grasped the principles and has held them in view while he gathered to them the men and the work which have given them brilliancy and force. The volume can hardly be less than a classic."—*The Journal and Messenger, Cincinnati*.

"The book is written by a recent president of the college, who has drawn a photographically minute and accurate picture of its life and purpose, its struggles and triumphs, its work accomplished, its aspirations and its ideals, from its founding to the present day."—*The New York Christian Advocate*.

"Former and present students and friends everywhere will welcome Dr. de Blois' history. * * * Students of the history of education will also find it a valuable addition. Dr. de Blois has brought to his work a loving reverence for its traditions and accomplishments."—*The St. Louis Globe Democrat*.

"A graphic narrative. * * * Dr. de Blois modestly says nothing about himself or his own work. We had to look long before we could find any mention of his appointment to the presidency, but * * * those who have had the pleasure of hearing Dr. de Blois preach in London will feel assured that his presidency must have had a powerful influence in deepening the spiritual life and stimulating the intellectual life of the school. * * * The narrative is marked by graceful appreciation of the lives and characters and work of the many faithful men who have labored for Shurtleff College. It bears evidence of careful research. The author writes con amore. The history is one of which the Baptists of Illinois have reason to be proud."—*The Times and Freeman, London*. (Organ of the Baptist Denomination of Great Britain.)

PUBLISHED BY

FLEMING H. REVELL COMPANY.

A CHORUS OF PRAISE

Dr. de Blois' recent book, "The Pioneer School," has been accorded an enviable reception. Seldom does a work receive such hearty and unanimous approval from the reading public. In proof of this we subjoin a few testimonies to its worth, received entirely without solicitation from leading clergymen, educators, and literary men of our country.

"A vivid story."

"A very beautiful work."

"A splendid piece of work."

"A noble story well told."

"It is charmingly written."

"It is as enchanting as a work of fiction."

"The author evinces poise and capability."

"The book ought to command a much wider circulation than the immediate Shurtleff constituency."

"Now and then it is given to a man to do a work that is finished, completed, and lasting. This book is of that sort."

"The author awakens interest at the start of the story and holds it all through. The character sketches of Mr. Peek, Father Loomis, the Leveretts and Dr. Bulkley, may well abide long in any reader's heart."

"There is spice enough in the book—a villain or two as the curtain lifts—then the tribute to the annual deficit, the dismissal of the missionary, the 'hard-shell' governor, the snap-shots of the imperturbable trustees, and the bit of keen analysis puncturing the 'Band of Faith' bauble and all similar vagaries."

Sent on receipt of price.

**FLEMING H. REVELL COMPANY,
63 Washington St.,
CHICAGO.**